

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 34-49 remain pending. Claims 42-45 and 49 are withdrawn pursuant to a Restriction Requirement.

The Examiner objected to claims 35-36, 38 and 41, citing the minor potential informalities on page 2 of the Office Action. The Applicants have adopted the Examiner's kind suggestions for improving the form of the claims.

Claims 34 and 46-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth on pages 2-3 of the Office Action. These claims have also been amended to address the Examiner's concerns.

Incidentally, concerning the Examiner's question with regard to claim 34 ("Is this 'analyzed result' a 'search result'?"), "analyzed result of the structured document" is now recited --an original analyzed structured document--, designating the structured document to be searched after analysis. See, for example, Fig. 3 and the associated description in the present specification.

The Examiner crossed through four documents cited in Information Disclosure Statements (JP 9-319632, JP 8-212230, JP 8-339369 and "Practical SGML"), asserting that the references were missing. The Applicants submit that copies of the references were filed concurrently with the application on September 28, 2001. However, for the Examiner's convenience and in order to expedite prosecution of the application, the Applicants are enclosing a copy of the Form PTO-1449 and additional copies of the references. The Applicants thus request the Examiner to initial and return the enclosed copy of the Form PTO-1449 that was originally submitted, with an indication that the documents have been considered.

The Applicants request the Examiner to acknowledge the claim for foreign priority and receipt of the certified copy in the parent application, U.S. Serial No. 09/107,986. Priority is claimed to Japanese Patent Application No. 09-190716, filed July 1, 1997, and Japanese Patent Application No. 09-195408, filed July 22, 1997, as indicated in the Declaration.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

To the extent necessary, the Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. ASA-724-02).

Respectfully submitted,

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